

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

070920Z Nov 02

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 COLOMBO 002091

SIPDIS

STATE FOR ECA/PE/V/P-ISABELLE ZSOLDOS/DEBORAH THOMPSON,
ECA/PE/V/G/N-ALICE SHIFFLETT; SA/PD

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OEXC SCUL KPAO OEXC

SUBJECT: FY-2003 IV PROGRAM: SRI LANKAN NOMINATION FOR
MRP ON "SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION": JANUARY 9-30, 2003
PROJECT NUMBER: E/VP-2003-0008

REF: (A) COLOMBO 01899 (B) STATE 126530 (C) STATE 50054

11. POST NOMINATES MS. ASHA DHANASIRI, SENIOR LEGAL
OFFICER, ENVIRONMENTAL FOUNDATION LTD.,FOR
PARTICIPATION IN SUBJECT PROJECT.

12. NOMINATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

EXPORT-SOURCE: USIS EVDB

VERSION: 3.0.0

POST-EMAIL: rscmb@pd.state.gov

TRANSMITTING-POST: PAS Colombo

TRANSMITTING-POST-ID: 2929

EXPORT-TYPE: BIO DATA

START NOMINATION:

USIA-OFFICE: E/VGN

PROG-AGENCY-NAME:

POST-PROJ-ID: 63

USIA-PROJ-NO: E/VP-2003-0008

PROJ-NAME: Sustainable Economic and Environmental
Development - January 9-30, 2003

START MEMO PROJ-DESC:

END MEMO PROJ-DESC:

PROJ-TYPE: Multi-Regional

PROG-TYPE: IV Grant Visitor

FY: 2003

DEPART-POST: 01/07/2003

SESSION-DATE: 01/09/2003

RETURN-POST: 02/02/2003

NO-OF-PART: 1

RANK-ORDER: 5

START MEMO POST-OBJ:

This project is in support of MPP strategic goal on
"Economic Development"

END MEMO POST-OBJ:

START MEMO POST-RCMD:

END MEMO POST-RCMD:

USIA-OFFICE-ID: 1039

PROG-AGENCY-ID:

PROJ-TYPE-ID: MRP

PROG-TYPE-ID: 29

NOMINATING-POST-ID: 2929

FUNDING-CNTRY-ID:

STATUS: N

ORIGINATOR: P

SUBJ-DISC: Economics (General)

START BIO:

PREFIX: Ms.

F-NAME: Asha

M-NAME:

L-NAME: DHANASIRI

SUFFIX:

PRINCIPAL?: Yes

M-ADDR1: Environmental Foundation Ltd.

M-ADDR2: 3 Campbell Terrace

M-ADDR3:

M-CITY: Colombo 10

M-STATE:

M-CNTRY: Sri Lanka

M-ZONE:

M-ZIP:

M-PHONE: (94-74) 616-474

M-FAX: (94-1) 697-226

M-EMAIL:

M-CNTRY-ID: CE

M-ADDRTYPE: B

GENDER: F

DOB: 05/09/1973

MAR-STAT: S

BIRTH-CITY: Colombo

BIRTH-CNTRY: Sri Lanka

CITIZ-CNTRY: Sri Lanka

RES-CNTRY: Sri Lanka

START MEMO POSITION:

Senior Legal Officer, Environmental Foundation Ltd.

END MEMO POSITION:

START MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:

END MEMO OTHER-POSITIONS:

START MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:

1998 - Law Officer, Environmental Foundation, Ltd.
1993-98 - Clerk, National Intellectual Property Office
in Sri Lanka

END MEMO PREV-POSITIONS:

START MEMO US-TRAVEL:

END MEMO US-TRAVEL:

START MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:

END MEMO OTHER-TRAVEL:

START MEMO EDUCATION:

Attorney-at-Law, Sri Lanka Law College, 1998

END MEMO EDUCATION:

START MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:

END MEMO MEMBERSHIPS:

START MEMO PUBLICATIONS:

END MEMO PUBLICATIONS:

START MEMO SPEC-CONSID:

END MEMO SPEC-CONSID:

FIRST-LANG: Sinhala

ENGL-READ: 4

ENGL-SPEAK: 4

ENGL-COMP: 4

START MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:

This nomination is in support of MPP strategic goal on
"Economic Development"

END MEMO NOM-POST-OBJ:

START MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:

END MEMO NOM-POST-RCMD:

START MEMO VIS-OBJ:

END MEMO VIS-OBJ:

START MEMO VIS-REC:

END MEMO VIS-REC:

NOMINATING-OFFICER: Teresa Manlowe

START MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:

Asha Dhanasiri is the Senior Legal Officer and head of the legal division of the Environmental Foundation Ltd. (EFL), a leading environmental NGO in Sri Lanka. Asha, as head of the legal division, is the second most senior officer at EFL and plays a key role in administration and management of the foundation. The section heads are involved in day to day administration, fund raising, policy formulation, litigation decisions and campaign issues. Asha is responsible for environmental litigation and public interest cases of the foundation.

EFL was founded in 1981. It is currently supported by the Ford Foundation and Helvos. EFL is a member of the "Friends of the Earth International," a leading international NGO similar to Green Peace. EFL has 26 full time employees, including six lawyers, four environmental scientists, and several science and management graduates. It takes a visible and an active role in all major environment related issues in Sri Lanka such as bio-technology, environmental pollution and protection, forestry, elephant conservation etc. Most recently, EFL has been advocating against GM foods and the U.S. tropical Forest Conservation Act as well as the ADB funded wildlife and nature protection project. EFL protests were in direct conflict with U.S. commercial and diplomatic interests. For example, a GM food ban will have an adverse effect on US food exports to Sri Lanka and set a bad precedence on trade policy. Similarly, a US company has recently won a contract under the ADB funded wildlife project and smooth implementation of the project is vital for the US Company. EFL is likely to continue to play a key role in environment policy formulation and litigation in Sri Lanka.

Asha is fluent in English and has a strong legal background. We expect her to play a key role in the EFL management in the future. Asha has never traveled to the U.S.

END MEMO NOMINATING-JUSTIFICATION:

NOM-OFF: Econ/Comm

SPEAKER?: No

NOTIFY-EMB: Yes

MEDIA?: No

HOME-STAY: Yes

HOME-HOSP?: Yes

E-I-TYPE:

NOMINEE-ID: 93

PERSON-ID: 97

BIRTH-CNTRY-ID: CE

CITIZ-CNTRY-ID: CE

RES-CNTRY-ID: CE

FIRST-LANG-ID: SI
E-I-TYPE-ID:
NOM-POST-ID: 2929
NOM-FUNDING-CNTRY-ID:
NOM-STATUS: N
END BIO:
END NOMINATION:

13. PLEASE ADVISE ACCEPTANCE OF THESE NOMINATIONS.
WILLS